

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 11836

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: MORE EXECUTIONS ANNOUNCED

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 11455, B. ADDIS ABABA 11780

SUMARY: PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC)
DISCLOSED EXECUTION OF 27 MEN FOUND GUILTY BY SPECIAL GENERAL
COURT MARTIAL OF ASSASSINATIONS, ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATIONS,
PLOTING EXPLOSIVES, DESTROYING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY,
AND COLLABORATING WITH ENEMIES OF ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE IN ANTI-
REVOLUTIONARY PLOTS. THOSE EXECUTED REPORTED VARIOUSLY AS
UNIVERSITY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND MEMBERS ARMED FORCES.
LENGTHY STATMENT NOTED PROVISIONAL NATURE OF PRESENT GOVERN-
MENT AND ITS MANDATE TO HAND OVER POWER TO "POPULAR REVOLU-
TIONARY FRONT UNDER LEADERSHIP OF WORKIN G CLASS PARTY".
END SUMMARY.

1. NOVEMBER 19 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED EXECUTION OF 27
MEN, AS ANNOUNCED ON AMHARIC RADIO PREVIOUS DAY. PMAC STATE-
MENT CONFIRMED MANY PAST RUMORS OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIONS
CIRCULATING ADDIS SINCE SEPT. 12 REVOLUTION DAY. THESE IN-
CLUDED ACTUAL AND ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATIONS, PLANTING OF
EXPLOSIVES IN PUBLIC PLACES, UNDER BRIDGES, AND IN PUBLICLY-
OWNED ESTABLISHMENTS, IN SOME CASES CAUSING DAMAGE, DESTRUC-
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TION OF PBULIC BUSES AND PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND COLLABORATION

IN ANTI-REVOLUTINARY PLOTS. LIST OF 27 MEN DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT CRIMES. NONE PRESENTLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY, ALTHOUGH ONE SOURCE REPORTS ALL WERE UNIVERSITY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RANGING IN AGE FROM 15-25 YEARS. RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT (REFTEL B) STATED "MANY" WERE OF ARMED FORCES, UNIVERSITY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. YET, NO MILITARY TITLES MENTIONED IN NEWSPAPERS AND TWO SOURCES BELIEVE NONE WERE FROM MILITARY. POSSIBLE EXPLANATION OF DISCREPANCY COULD BE MORE THAN 27 EXECUTED AS ONE SOURCE ALLEGES, AND THOSE NAMES OMITTED WERE MILITARY.

2. ARTICLE SURPRISINGLY OMITTS ANY MENTION OF ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (EPRP), AND SPEAKS IN MORE GENERAL TERMS OF ONGOING CLASS STRUGGLE BETWEEN COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY FRONT OF FORMER LANDLORDS, IMPERIALISTS, REACTIONARIES, RENEGADES, AND FASCIST OFFSPRING OF REACTIONARY PETIT BOURGEOIS ON ONE SIDE, AND REVOLUTINARY VANGUARD OF WORKERS, PEASANTS, AND PROGRESSIVE PETIT BOURGEOIS, AND OTHER ANTI-FEUDALIST, ANTI-IMPERIALIST GROUPS ON OTHER. STATEMENT ADDED THAT PAST REVOLUTIONS SHOW CLASS CONTRADICTIONS CANNOT BE SETTLED AT ROUNDTABLE, BECAUSE ANTI-REVOLUTIONARIES MAINTAIN FRANTIC STRUGGLE TO LAST MINUTE. PMAC REITERATED MILITARY GOVERNMENT ONLY IN POWER PROVISIONALLY, AND HAS CLEAR MANDATE TO CEDE POWER TO POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY FRONT UNDER LEADERSHIP OF WORKING CLASS PARTY, ALTHOUGH NO TIMETABLE GIVEN.

3. COMMENT: FAILURE TO MENTION EPRP COMPLICITY OR INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER OPPOSITION GROUPS MAY SIMPLY BE ONE TIME OMISSIONS, ALTHOUGH ONE SOURCE REPORTS POLITBURO HAS DECIDED TO SLOW DOWN ON GIVING EPRP SO MUCH FREE PUBLICITY. THIS TIME, ALL OPPOSITION LUMPED INDISCRIMINATELY TOGETHER IN ONE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY FRONT, WHICH PROGRESSIVE ETHIOPIANS, ONCE UNITED AS POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY FRONT UNDER LEADERSHIP OF WORKING CLASS PARTY, WOULD ULTIMATELY OVERCOME. ON PAPER AT LEAST, MANDATE OF PMAC TO FULFILL DAILY FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT AND TO ORGANIZE BROAD MASSES INTO UNITED FRONT APPEARS NEARER COMPLETION WITH IMPEDING FORMATION OF ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION (AETU), ESTABLISHING OF SCHOOL SUPERVISORY COMMITTEES, SUCCESSFUL KEBELE ELECTIONS IN ADDIS ABABA, AND FUTURE ELECTIONS IN 22 OTHER MAJOR TOWNS BY DECEMBER 3.

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4. TENOR OF PMAC STATEMENT WOULD INDICATE THAT EPRP CALLS FOR "PEOPLE'S PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT/ UNDER CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP" MAY BE HAVING IMPACT ON DIRG. REFERENCE TO ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION AS "PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION, NOT NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION AS IN PAST, APPEARS TO BE PMAC EFFORT TO PREEMPT RHETORIC OF EPRP. AT SAME TIME, EVEN IF COMPOSITION OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD ULTIMATELY CHANGE FROM MILITARY TO

CIVILIAN OR HYBRID SOMEWHERE BETWEEN, ERPR ELEMENTS, BY
THEIR ANTI-REGIME ACTIONS OF RECENT MONTHS, HAVE ALMOST
CERTAINLY FORECLOSED THEIR OWN CHANCES OF PARTICIPATING
IN SUCH A GOVERNMENT. END COMMENT.
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